



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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N.H. Department of Safety photo
Agriculture, human services and emergency management officials from around the region taking part in a tabletop exercise in Wilder, Vt., involving the outbreak of foot and mouth disease among dairy cows.

TABLETOP CONSIDERS FOOT AND MOUTH OUTBREAK – Agriculture, human services and emergency management personnel from all six New England states and New York State and federal officials that cover the region took part in a daylong tabletop exercise involving a simulated outbreak of foot and mouth disease and developing a coordinated regional response. The exercise was held in Wilder, Vt., on May 8. The scenario involved an outbreak among dairy cattle in Rhode Island that were then sold to a farm in Maine. Response plans involved quarantining the affected farms and working with the region's dairy industry to clean tanker trucks to block the spread of the foot and mouth virus, especially from potentially undetected outbreaks.

Foot and mouth disease can be fatal to cattle, but does not affect humans. An essential element of the response was to reassure the public that milk and milk products were safe. Other objectives were to protect dairy cattle from further outbreaks and to protect the region's dairy industry by promoting a secure milk supply.

ALLENSTOWN CONDUCTS RECOVERY PLAN EXERCISE - The Town of Allenstown tried out its new Disaster Recovery Plan during a tabletop exercise on Saturday, April 21. It was preceded by a workshop to review the new plan on March 22. The plan is based on the new National Disaster Recovery Framework, issued Sept. 2011. This was the first recovery exercise held in New Hampshire, working exclusively on short- and long-term recovery issues. It was the fifth such exercise in the country. The scenario involved an F5 tornado that traveled southeast through Allenstown and destroyed all buildings, trees, and utility lines and anything in its path, including town offices, police and fire stations, schools and businesses.

The exercise was funded by the Homeland Security Exercise Grant Program and followed Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines. For more information about exercises, contact Katya Brennan, Exercise Training Officer, Katya.Brennan@dos.nh.gov; 223-3638.

TABLETOP HELD TO PREPARE FOR NATIONAL LEVEL EXERCISE – Personnel from HSEM, the N.H. National Guard and the Department of Information Technology joined their state and federal colleagues from around the region in Boston on May 10 for a cyber-based tabletop exercise. The New England states are participating in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Level Exercise 2012, which is based on simulated cyber attacks on the United States. Such attacks are already underway, with 650,000 incursions last year on government, corporate and academic computer systems. Cyber attacks may be aimed at disabling, disrupting or taking control of computer systems. They may originate anywhere in the world and may be carried out by hostile governments, terrorist groups or individual hackers. The exercise is aimed at improving methods of protecting computer systems from cyber attacks and enhancing communication and cooperation among agencies.

DEADLINES APPROACH FOR SBA LOAN APPLICATIONS - The U.S. Small Business Administration reminds businesses and non-profit organizations in New Hampshire that working capital loans are still available for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private non-profit organizations affected by Tropical Storm Irene that occurred from Aug. 26 through Sept. 6, 2011. The deadline for applications from small businesses and agricultural cooperatives is **June 7**. The deadline for private, non-profit organizations, such as community centers, colleges and food kitchens, is **June 5**. Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) up to \$2 million are available at 3 percent for private non-profit organizations of all sizes and 4 percent for small businesses, with terms up to 30 years. The loans are intended to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. These EIDLs are available to small businesses and most private non-profit organizations in Belknap, Carroll, Coös, Grafton, Merrimack, Strafford and Sullivan counties.

Disaster loan information and application forms are available by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan application forms can also be downloaded from www.sba.gov.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE COMING UP – The eighth annual N.H. Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 26, at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester. The conference brings together more than 500 emergency management and public safety personnel and others involved in emergency planning for the public and private sectors. Topics to be covered this year include: Implementing the Incident Command System in the EOC, Tropical Storm Irene – Response and Recovery, Critical Infrastructure, School Planning and many more. Nominations are currently being sought for the recipient of the 2012 Stovepipe Award. To make a nomination go to http://www.nhemergencyprepconference.com/Stovepipe_Award.html. Admission to the conference is free but space is limited. Register online at www.NHEmergencyPrepConference.com.

ENROLL ONLINE FOR FIRE ACADEMY COURSES – A variety of firefighter training courses will continue to be offered in June through the N.H. Fire Academy. Among the courses offered around the state are a Firefighter I Course in Fitzwilliam, a Rescue Skills course in Windham and Hazmat Technician Refresher courses at Hampstead, Keene and Manchester. For more information and registration on courses offered in July and August, visit the Fire Academy training calendar at <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/training/schedtrdates.html>.

NORTH COUNTRY FIRE ACADEMY- Senate Bill 291, which was passed by the House on April 25th, creates the New Hampshire North Country Fire Academy. This extension of the N.H. Fire Academy will save firefighters from the North Country an average of nearly four hours round-trip commuting time and provide the same quality level of instruction found at the Concord location. The facility is located off Trudeau Road in Bethlehem, at the site of a former ranger station. It includes a “burn house” that will provide various training experiences for full-time, call, and volunteer firefighters in the North Country.

ARFF TRAINING- The N.H. Fire Academy is providing a number of Airport Rescue Firefighter (ARFF) courses to certify and re-certify many northeast regional airport firefighters. Airport firefighters from Nantucket and Barnstable, Mass.; Pease International Tradeport, Portland International Jetport, and Burlington, Vt., International Airport have been training at the ARFF site since mid-April. ARFFs are required to re-certify each year. Training includes a fuel spill live fire training simulator that can provide large and small fuel spill fires for a large variety of training options. The training event features a large fuel spill fire that can be seen from a distance. The specialized B737 Aircraft Fire Trainer has training stations for realistic training on flight deck, cabin, cargo, wheel/brake, wing engine, tail engine, and electrical bay fires.

Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on www.readynh.nh.gov and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH).